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The National Era is Published Weekly, on Seventh towards her with the force of a maelstrom! 1

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THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 29, 1850.

(COPY-BIGHT SECURED.)

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW.

A STORY OF THE ISLAND ESTATE. BY MRS. EMMA D. E. SOUTHWORTH.

BOOK SECOND. VIL THE GER-FALCON.

This should have been a noble creature, she Hath all the energy that would have made A goodly frame of glorious elements, Had they been wisely mingled-as it is, An awful chaos—light and darkness,
And mind and dust, and passions and pure thoughts,
Mixed and conteoding without end or order, All dormant or destructive; she will perish

And yet she must not; such are worth redemption

It was a queer place—the chamber where young Frobisher lay at the Lair. The house being near the top of the mountain peak, and the room near the top of the house, it looked down a dizzy

height. The side of his bed was placed against one o the front windows, so that the patient had only to turn over towards it to enjoy a sublime prosdow had been so obscured by cobwebs and fly stains as to make a curtain superfluous, until the looped back, to permit the invalid to look out This, with Zoe's new blue-and-white quilt, made the chamber look neat and comfortable enough, "considering."

Imagine an elephantess in a poultry yard, tripping it lightly and softly about, for fear of treading on the young chickens, and you will have some little notion of how our amazon stepped about the sick room of her patient upon the morning after Brutus had left home for the metropolis. It was very difficult for Gertrude to step softly or speak low. She was in the habit of shouting, roaring, leaping, running, and demolishing everything she happened to touch, and otherwise expending her excess of vital energy; and now she tripped about the room as awkwardly as a condor in a quadrille might do. Zoe was in the room, too, but gliding so spirit-like about, that you would scarcely have known her presence. Their patient was supposed to be asleep.

"Hush-sh-sh-sh! Gertrude!" whispered Zoe, with the bang of a hammer on the anvil shiver ing the vial in the act.

Sh-sh-sh ! ain't I sh-sh-ing all I can? I do wonders! Something will happen to me yet, with all this sh-sh-sh-ing. Didn't I like to fall down stairs, by coming softly up? And I shall break a blood-vessel, too, by trying to talk low, I know I shall! keeping in so much breath will explode

my ribs, I know it will !" "Hush-sh-sh, Gertrude! don't whisper; a whisper in a sick room is more annoying than a talk," murmured Zoe, moved from the chamber, as the

most effectual way of preventing conversation. Left alone, Gertrude stepped up to the side of the bed, and, tossing back her heavy fall of yellow hair, stooped over the sleeping patient. He was lying with his face towards the window, his eyes closed, his black silky hair dropping soft shadows over his temple and throat. Gertrude looked over him as one might look at a very charming picture or a beautiful sleeping child, and a smile dimpled her mouth and half-closed her eyes, as she looked-then the fair amazon cautiously put out one finger, and softly touched a black curl that coiled upon the transparent temple-then suddenly drew back her hand, as though she feared that at a touch this Adonis might blow up, or melt away. Still she looked at the sleeping face, as a child looks at something very charming and curious, but which it is forbidden to meddle with. Oh, he is so beautiful! so beautiful!" she murmured to herself, still curiously fascinated by the exquisitely delicate features and complexion. At last, however, as she looked, she saw the black eyelashes of the youth begin to tremble on his white cheeks, and the corner of his chiselled lips began to quiver with suppressed humor. Her sanguine blood rushed to her brow just as he lost command of his countenance, and opened his

eyes with an angelic smile. "I was not asleep, dear Gertrude !" "Oh! thank you for confession immediately following detection," said the Ger-Falcon, moving

from the bed-side. "Come back, dear Gertrude, I want to talk to " No-you must sleep."

"I cannot, Gertrude; I have had sleep enough. "But you haven't," said Gertrude, returning, you have not. Come, shut your eyes, and go to sleep-that's a good boy-do-that's a dear boy-think what your mamma would say if she knew how you trifled with your precious health. Come, now, shut your eyes, and go to sleep, while I draw these curtains-that's a sweet boy!" and

tooping down, Gertrude placed her two hands

each side of his head, patted him, and ran away. "What a strange girl ! and how singular that she talks to me as though I were a child! But, perhaps, it is not so strange, since every American youth I have met looks older at fourteen-in the face, at least-than I do at twenty-six; that is the reason she takes me for a boy. Well! that mistake is not unpleasant in some of its effects. What a magnificent girl! the largest woman I ever saw, yet the most elegantly propor-tioned, and the most delicately finished. There is nothing coarse in her vast beauty. Why, her inger-ends, her eye-lids, her nostrils, have that exquisite transparency, that fineness of fibre, be-longing to the highest order of Caucasian beauty. But where are my thoughts wandering to now? I began by thinking how I should delight my friend Lawrence, by giving him a sketch of this amazonian beauty found in the wilds of America-I have ended with- Well! I must ot have those soft fingers clasp my face—rich lips over over my lips so often !" And the youth raised himself on his elbow, shook his pillow venemently, turned it, and dropped again exhau While looking through the window, his eye roved

wonder who she is -who brought her up?" Then rising on his elbow, he looked out again upon the mountain-scene, while his thoughts roved from one subject to another with feverific vehamence. Growing tired of this occupation, he took a stick that stood near the head of his bed, in lies of a floor. Soon he heard a rushing up the stairs, and "Who are your friends and companions, Gerbard a hundle of Bearing a clean shirt in one trade?" hand, a bundle of linen in the other.

and change your shirt, and then you shall have a broiled partridge for dinner. Zoe is broiling it now." And approaching the bed-side, she laid down her bundles and began to open his shirt-boam to dress his wound, saying, all the time, "Now, cloths, draw down the corners of their mouths, som to dress his wound, saying, all the time, "Now, cloths, draw down the corners of their mouths, don't wince, don't shrink - I won't hurt you, rough as I am, indeed I won't. There! be a good boy, and take it patiently !" After she had finished dressing the wound, she took up the shirt and said, very coolly, "Now let me lift you up, and put this on!" A scarcely perceptible smile

hovered around the youth's mouth, as he said,
"I thank you, dear nurse, but I am capable of
performing that service for myself!"
"Don't try now, if you don't feel well enough,
for I have nothing else to do but wait on you." "Thank, you, dear Gertrude, but I will trouble

you to bring me a glass of water."
"Yes, certainly!" and she went below; and by the time the young man had performed his toilet, she returned with the glass of water, fol-lowed by Zoe bearing his nice little dinner on a tray. He took no more notice of Zee than if she had been a little kitten. When the meal was over, Zee took up the tray and left the room. Gertrude was about to follow, when the

young man called her back.

"Will you not remain with me an hour, dear Gertrude, to help me while away the tedious "Oh, yes! certainly. I only want to go down and feed Borealis; then I'll return."

" Boresdia!" "Oh!"

Tree!" THE And Gertrude left the room for about half an stains as to make a curtain superfluous, until the arrival of the nest little housewife, Zoe, who at once washed it off, and sent to the Dovecote for a and wed this young amazon or to avoid her altoclean white muslin curtain, which was always gether. I wonder what sort of an education she has received?" Seeing Gertrude return and take her seat by his bed, he turned around on his pillow, rested his head on his hand, and asked, "Will you read to me, Gertrude?"

"Oh, yes!" said the Ger-Falcon, rising and go ing into another room. Presently she came back, took her seat, and opening her book, prepared to "What have you got there, Gertrude?"

"It is the legend of the Seven Champions of Christendom! It is a very grand thing! Takes my bresth quite away to read it, although few things have the power to do that. Yes, a great-work this! such splendid fighting!"

"Is that your first favorite, Gertrude?"

"Yes! but I have others"

"And what may they be?"

"Oh, I like St. George and the Dragon, Una and the Lion, and a German story Brighty read to me once—The Wild Huntsman"—

"That who read to you?"
"That Brighty, Mrs. General Stuart-Gor-"Ah! you know her, then ?"

"Yes: do you?"
"I have met her; but now tell me your other

had such splendid riding and racing and fighting and flying all through it! but, oh! my favorite of dise lost! Oh! there was magnificent fighting there!—Heaven and Hell in battle array! all space for a battle-field! the throne of the Universe the stake! and angels and devils hurling planets at each other! Oh! that was a touch above the sublime! I can conceive that it took a

blind man to write that !" "Yes! dear Gertrude, a blind man—a man in spiritual as in visual darkness! War in Heaven! Gertrude! does not that strike you as horrible

"No, it don't !" Now, Gertrude, is that all your reading?"
"Yes! I believe so!"

"You should read history and travels and voy oges. Gertrude !"

"Ah! that is well. What history and whose travels do you read?".
"Oh! I read the history of Jack the Giant Killer, and Gulliver's Travels, and the voyages of Sinbad the Sailor! Hush! what are you laughing at, boy? If you laugh so loud as that, you'll make your nose bleed—no! I mean your

heartily.
"Come! I shall get mad! I think it is very improper for boys to laugh at their elders!"
"I beg your pardon, dear Gertrude! Now, go
on with your reading!"
"I won't! there now! You have put me out,

and so you may just do without it!"
"I submit, dear Gertrude," said the young man, in his mellifluous tones.

Gertrude looked at him, with her blazing eyes Oh! I'll read to you!" then she said.

Oh, but I will!"

"I will not hear you now, Gertrude!"

"But I was only joking, my boy!"

"Nevertheless, I will not trouble you!"

"You are angry! that's what you are!" exclaimed the amazon, bursting into fury, throwing down the book, and sending it with her foot to down the book, and sending it with her foot to the opposite end of the room. "Yes! you are angry! that's what you are! Now, if you are angry, why don't you quarrel and have done with it, and then hear the reading! Why don't you quarrel, and not lay there saying 'No,' and 'No,' in your flute tones, to make me miserable! I never was crossed in my life, and I won't be crossed now and made miserable by a refractory boy! and I'll let you know, sir, that your tutor is in the house, and, if you do not behave yourself, he shall come up and give you a lesson in Greek! shall come up and give you a lesson in Greek!
Why don't you quarrel, hey? What are you
sulking about? If you are angry, why don't you
quarrel? You won't? Well, I don't care—a
dumb devil is better than a talking one!"

"Gertrude!"
The two syllables fell on her ears like two low sweet, full music notes. She wheeled abruptly round to see him looking at her with his large, tender eyes. With a quick revulsion of feeling, Gertrude burst into tears, and hurried towards

him, covering him with caresses.

"Poor boy! poor boy! It is I who am a bar-barian! but then I always was so used to Brutus. He quarrels back again, and we get our account evenly balanced! So I am not fit to deal with gentle boy like you!"
"Let us now return to the subject of you

"Shall I read to you?"

"Oh! you won't let me do that. You are

"None others at all, except the heathen my

"And you like that "And you like that "Oh! very much indeed! The schoolmaster used to tell us that these heathen fables were a bunch of keys—that each fable was a key to unlock the mystery of some truth, if we would but fit the key into the right lock."

"Who brought you up, Gertrude?"

"Nobody! I came up of myself."

"Who educated you?"

"The schoolmaster."

"Satisfactory that?"—

over mountain, wood, and water. "Oh, how I wish my friend Turner were only here, to paint this scene. Singular, they roam all over Europeground that has been travelled, painted, and described, until every part of it is familiar to all—while these unknown scenes of wildest beauty, of the most terrible sublimity, remain unsought," he murmured; then, "Pshaw! I talk of one thing and think of another! That peerlow girl! She is unique! there is but one of her species! The clearest, purest syes, the clearest, purest soul that ever any one looked through and through! That wondrous girl! She draws me

"But, poor boy, are you sure you are not hurt-by my rudeness? Oh, I am so sorry about it! I would not hurt you again for the world. Say, are

hand, a bundle of linen in the other.

"Ah! you have slept. That is right. You are strong enough to have your wound dressed, and change your shirt, and then you shall have a "This you are no favorite in your neighbor-

and look at me over the tops of their mouths, and look at me over the tops of their spectacles; and young luddes games over their shoulders, avert their eyes, and whisper together, when I come among them."

"So you have no friends, Gertrude, besides having no relatious."

"Oh, bless you, yes; these people are not my enemies, only they do not know how to take me,

plexion very fair. like hers—only that her cheeks and lips are of rich carnation, and yours are so pale—oh, so very pale," said Gertrude, her eyes love. So far, this is well. But mark—led by softening, as she laid her hand upon the pallid forehead of the youth, "so pale. Oh, how could I have been such a bear as to growl at you, my poor boy. Ah, well, you came down here to see Brighty as your cousin?"

Brighty as your cousin? "

You days now?" Yes, dear nurse."

"Won't you tell me something about yourself

(so to speak) through a vast morass. This great marsh is all that is left of the once valuable estate marsh is all that is left of the once valuable estate of Clonmachnois. The Earl of Clonmachnois died last winter in extreme poverty, leaving nothing but the marsh, the ruined house, and the empty title, to his heirs. The sole heiress of this swamp, ruin, and coronet, is my cousin, Britannia O'Riley. Before the death of the old Earl, I used to walk about the margin of that vast bog, and saying to myself—Here are hundreds of men, women, and children, starving in idleness; here are hundreds of acres of ground, producing nothing but maligners if these acres were drained, they nant fevers; if these acres were drained, they could be made to support this population; there is work to be done, and people starving for the want of work; it only needs capital to adjust the one want to the other. I was wealthy; I would

him all my plans and wishes for my native parish, and received from him the suggestion of seeking Lot, we say to you, "Escape for thy life; tarry Gertrude, I revolted at the idea of looking up an heiress for the sake of marrying her; but after much thought, I decided that, as my heart was really free, as the happiness of hundreds depended upon my getting possession of that marsh, that I would seek out the young heiress; and, if I should

love her, and be so happy as to win her love, that I would offer her my hand and fortune. Having gained a clue to the young lady's residence, I obgained a clue to the young lady's residence, I obtained, through my relative, an appointment as attaché to the present embassy; came out, and, through an advertisement, discovered the ahode of my cousin, and come and found her sufficiently beautiful, elegant, and accomplished, to grace the highest circles, and found her, only to see her marry another!" Gertrude had been silent all this time.

last, sighing vastly like a rising gale, she asked.
"And did you—did you—did you fall in love

with Brighty?"
"Why, no," smiled the youth, "not precisely.
I had built some aerial castles, it is true, but"—
then, sighing deeply, said, "it is a serious disappointment to me—the downfall of my hopes for Gertrude reechoed his sigh. Gertrude wa

puzzled also. She could not reconcile the deli-cate features and complexion, the almost infantile clearness of brow, with the manly discourse of her patient. She did not call him "my boy" again,

she ventured to say,
"I wonder how old you are?" "I am twenty-two!"
"Twenty-two! No, you can't be. Louis Stu-

art-Gordon is only eighteen, and he looks much older than you do!"
"That is because he is an American and I am an Irishman. Even children's faces dry and wrinkle in your dry climate, while men and wo-

men retain an infantile freshness and softness of complexion long past middle age, in the climate of England and Ireland."

England and Ireland."

"Your countenance is very fair and clear, and oh! you have one beautiful place on your face!"

"Where, Gertrude?"

"Oh! just between your eyebrows! so open! so clear! so benignant! it reminds one of celestial arches, of rainbows, and of angels!"

The furious yelling of the dogs started Gertrude to her feet. She ran to the window.

"What is the matter with them, Gertrude?"
"It is the bailiff!" she exclaimed, her color rising her eyes sparkling, as she hastened from It is the bailiff! Now you it!

For the National Era

SLAVERY SINFUL IN ITSELF. AND NON-FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE PRACTICING IT THE DUTY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

word leaven, when used in the Scrip

No. 8-CONTINUED.

2 The word leaven, when used in the Soriptures to designate truth and purity, is not used to designate the influence of a few true Christians upon a corrupt church, but to designate the influence of a pure church upon a corrupt world. Paraphrased, as used by our Saviour, it reads thus. The kingdom of heaven, that is the church, when pure, as planted by Christ, is like leaven, leavening or purifying the corrupt world around it, as leaven leavens meal around it, and will continue to do so until the whole lump, the whole world, shall be given to God for his inheritance until the kingdoms of this earth shall become the kingdoms of his Son. But "if the salt," which designates the pure church, "has lost its salt-ness," (that is, when the controlling influence has become corrupt.) "wherewith shall it be salted?" that is, how shall it be purified? The controlling influence is against you; that of course will vote you down, bear your name and influence along you down, bear your name and influence along with its current, and you cannot reach the matter of complaint, for it is now admitted by the majority to be consistent with piety. You cannot therefore reach the corrupt members; and they see that your words are contradicted by your practice, for you fellowship with what you say is wicked; they regard you as having beams in your own eyes, and as not seeing very straight; or else, that you are not honest—do not really believe what you say. In either case, you cannot reach the erring members.

"How old were you when your mother died?"

"My mother died the same hour that I was born; my father died four years after."

"But now how are you when your mother died?"

"But now how are you when your mother died?"

"But now how are you were were well and others may therefore practice the same without necessarily ruining their souls or the without necessarily ruining their souls or the indigence of a free people.

South are not so base as your argument would make them! They have not passed that last round in the descent to crime and infamy, where insensibility to shame and public denunciation."

LEGNARD WHITNEY, Chairmon.

With those who are not willing to do the by my rudeness? Oh, I am so sorry about it! I would not hurt you again for the world. Say, are you sure?"

The youth pressed her hand affectionately as an an area wer; then—

"Who are your friends and companions, Ger"Who are your friends and companions, Ger"The youth pressed her hand affectionately as an area wer; then—

"Who are your friends and companions, Ger"The you have no favorite in your neighbor"The you are no favorite in your neighbor"The you are no favorite in your neighbor-

connection. Thus it is, "a little leaven of corrup-tion leavens the whole lump." And have we not already seen that this has been verified in the case of slavery as it exists in the churches of the

And, reader, how stands your own case? You And, reader, how stands your own case? You have, perhaps, had an awakened conscience on the constant of the co you see; and for friends, I have one very dear friend—little Zoe, who broils your partridges; only I don't intend to let Brutus marry her; and there is Britannia, who does me justice. Ah, by the way, you said you knew Britannia; how did you know her?"

"She is my comin" there is no there churches. But what reformation have you accomplished in reference to this particular question? Perhaps, in reality, you are growing less active, and if not, perhaps the church is increasing its slave area, and, in reality, whilst it makes to you and others many soft ity, whilst it makes to you and others many soft "She your cousin! Ah, now that you tell me, I declare I see a resemblance. Your hair and eyes are bluish black, like hers, and your complexion very fair. like hers—only that her may have but recently been awakened on the subject—your zeal strong, and yet in your first love. So far, this is well. But mark—led by

go on until you shall soon have no fellowship with slavery, or else you will go back, and fold your arms in the cause of freedom, and that, now?"

"Yes, dear Gertrude, and more than you expect to hear, perhaps:

"Gertrude, in the neighborhood where I was born and brought up, in Ireland, there are hundreds of miserable men and women living in mud huts, on lumps of hard ground, spattered about (so to spenk) through a wat more as This come to hate that subject which gives you pain or unpleasantness. 3. You will then banish it as much as possible from your mind, and particular-

the truth of the subject, we refer the reader to a letter which we have read since we commenced could be made to support this population; there is work to be done, and people starving for the want of work; it only needs capital to adjust the one want to the other. I was wealthy; I would gladly have purchased this bog from the old Earl, and, with my own means, have set the peasantry to work, and drained it or filled it up. That would have given the starving people present work and wages, and opened a fair prospect in the future to all concerned.

"Unfortunately for my project, the old Earl refused to part with any more of his acres. When he died, I went immediately to London—saw a relative who was is the cabinet—related to him all my plans and wishes for my native parish,

For the National Era

TO THE HON. DANIEL WEBSTER. I think I showed in my last letter that slavery is very slightly, if at all, affected by climate or soil. The history of the world confirms the reasoning. It is enough to say that the worst grade of serfdom now exists in "the everlasting snows" of Siberian Russia. I stated, that so far from nature's law having forbid slavery in Mexico and Colifornia, that they were, of all countries in the world, most suited to slavery. The "Asiatic features" of the country, I thought, were the best for slavery, as Asia has ever been fuller of Despotism than Europe. Nothing struck me with so much force, in passing through Mexico, as the fact that the physical features of the country warred against a middle class of small landholders, who are the best depositaries of freedom. The very necessity of irrigation requires large capital and a single ownership. Hence the tendency is towards master and slave, or landlord and tenant, almost inevitably—the most unfavorable case for free institutions. But if the tillable land invites to slavery, equally so do the barren hills, whose only wealth is mineral mines. Surely if any business would make slave-labor profitable in the world, mining is that business. And yet, in the face of these facts, you obstinately insist that the law of God forbids slavery there! Once more, your reasoning is as bad as your feets! You "will not resnect the law of God!" I belong to that fanatical class who believe that the business of law-makers is to resnact the laws of God and Nature, and nothing else. Pray, sir, if that sort of laws is not to be reenacted, what sort is?- Only those which are at war with God No. 4. I think I showed in my last letter that slavery if that sort of laws is not to be reenacted, what sort is?- Only those which are at war with God and Nature? If there are any "gentlemen," North or South, whose sensibilities are likely to be wounded by the reënactment of the laws of God or Nature, those I would take care to wound; because they would deserve to be wounded, as all crime deserves punishment! I understand, then, that the substance of all this is, that you refuse to reclaim your stolen "thunder!" You sack our FROM THE WILMOT PROVISO! You speak of some men, who when they change, themselves.

FROM THE WILMOT PROVISO! You speak of some men, who, when they change, themselves, contend that the world around had changed! These are the shallow subterfuges of weak minds. Not so with the heroic genius! With him, history has changed! its valleys have changed! its hills are not the same! "A plague on all cowards, say I." "Is there no virtue extant?" "I will not give you a reason upon compulsion"—"I will not give you a reason upon compulsion"—"You are quite happy in your vindication of the South from Northern aggression. But I look in vain to find a word of complaint on the part of the North against the South. At this, I am not surprised. The North has proven herself quite tame in her submission to insults, and to blows! I have already attended to this; I shall not go over the same ground.

not go over the same ground.

I suppose the large class of merchants and manufacturers of Massachusetts, whom you represent appland your course. The point of honor with them is, to "put money in their purse!"

Nobody expected them to show any spirit of manliness—any resistance to wrong—any demand for rights!

But Massachusetts has not their the honor.

noble bloods." There is a remnant of the old Puritan stock, who do not worship only the belly! men who put principle before gold—men who rightly comprehend the rights of man, and have the iron will and the indestructible energy to achieve their final vindication!

it had been well if you had passed them in silence. It were well for Daniel Webster, ever

stupefies the villain! Their whole effort is, very naturally, to make slavery just as tolerable as slavery can be made, consistent with its permanence. But the same causes which tend to its amelioration, will accomplish its abolition at last But the same causes which tend to its If laws cannot be long better than public opin-ion—so they cannot long be worse than public opinion. When slavery comes under the ban of a wide-spread public opinion, it will perish, in spite of obsolete laws and paper constitutions!

Complaisance, charity, compromise, sir, are the supports of slavery! "Easy virtue," in church and state, consummates the ruin of political morals debauches the nation, and makes slavery a very tolerable thing!—a "patriarchal institu-tion!" The praises of the Southern press ought to remind you of a certain wise man of antiquity. "Titinius applauds—I've said a foolish thing!"
There is much to approve in what you say of

The liberty of the white race, who are the majority is not to be jeoparded for any contingent possibility of thereby freeing the black race. Far less is the Union to be dissolved, for the purpose of maintaining slavery! Three hundred thou-sand slaveholders are not the South; as they will find out, when they choose to put the fearful issue—"Slavery, or Disunion!" W. H. Seward, nearly right in all his speech, is surely right in this, that the slaveholders are the last to seek disunion! It is Bullyism and Braggardism, and nothing else! They knew the tameness of the North, and calculated upon it, and succeeded! I do not therefore feel the eloquence of your speech just here—it seems but "mock-tragedy" at best!

With sorrow be it said, that even your virtues lean to vice's side! The proposition to appro-priate money for the colonization of free blacks should, when carried into a law, be entitled "a bill for the encouragement of crime!" Colonizationist, because I think a free educated black colony will, perhaps, civilize Africa. But colonization, with a view merely of getting clear

of a free colored class, who are "a thorn in the King's side," has none of my sympathy! If you had said to the South, give us the liberty of all your bondmen, and we will give you all our public revenue beyond the actual neowould have said a great, a good, and a sensible thing. I wish for your own sake, much, and yet more, for the sake of the Union, and of humanity at large, that you had nerved yourself to paint slavery, as none but you could have painted it. and then have come forward in good earnest with a proffer of the proceeds of the public lands and all other available means, to assist in its final eradication! It is a source of regret to all lovers of American genius, that you did not prove gloriously great, as you are unquestionably tal-ented! That your aspirations were not for a country just, as well as "wide-spread" and pow-erful—an altar, where the soul could pour out its love, and prayers, as well as its admiration— "Liberty and Union—one, and inseparable, now,

I have freely spoken, as an advocate of liberty, not as your enemy. I shall not be of those who wish to put you down, or see you put down! I trust you may long live, and long be in the councils of the nation—more earnestly and faithfully to use, for the good of the nation and humanity, those great powers with which Nature has so signally marked you.

Believe me, truly and respectfully, your most obedient servant,

C. M. CLAY. I have freely spoken, as an advocate of liberty,

Madison Co., Ky., April 3, 1850.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ERA. Marion, IA., April 1, 1850.

Sig: In accordance with a resolution, which will be seen below, it devolves upon me to solicit your attention to the following report, and re-quest publication in your paper:

MASS MEETING. Pursuant to a previous call for a mass meeting, the citizens of Grant county, Indiana, convened at the Court-House in Marion, on Saturday, the 30th ult, at 1 o'clock P. M.

The meeting was organized by calling A. Diltz, sen., to the chair, and appointing E. C. Ink, Secre-The object of the meeting was to take into

consideration the action of Congress upon Mr. Clay's Compromise resolutions, and upon Califor-nia's demand for admission, as a State, into the

remarks, suggestive of the expediency of pro-ceeding to the business of the meeting, without the appointment of a special committee to pre-pare business for its consideration. After which, James Brownlee, Esq., offered the following

a law by Congress, prohibiting slavery in all Territories belonging to, or which may hereafter be sequired by, the United States. Resolved, That we are in favor of the immediate

of a law by Congress, granting slaves and other persons claimed as owing service, the right of

profound regret a disposition on the part of some Northern members in Congress to yield up our Territories to the chances of settlement and popu-lation, thereby leaving them openly exposed to

the extension of slavery.

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress to immediately admit California, as a State, into the Union, with her present Constitution and boundaries.

daries.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the passage of
a law by Congress, imposing the "heaviest sanctions," as proposed in the Senate of the United
States, upon citizens of the free States, upon their
refusal to deliver up persons claimed as fugitives
from slavery; believing that such enactment
would be contrary to the spirit of the Constitution of the conversion and totally subver-

tion, odious and oppressive, and totally subver-sive of our civil and religious privileges.

The above resolutions were discussed by Messrs.
D. W. Jones, Thomas Howe, John Brownlee, J. W. Dodd, and Dr. Wm. Lomax, and were finally

Resolved, That we heartly approve the course pursued by our Representative in Congress, Hon. A. J. Harlan, in voting for the resolutions of Mesars. Root and Giddings. Adopted without on motion, it was ordered, that the Secretar

forward a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the Editor of the National Era, and request its publication. On motion, the meeting adjourned.
A. Du.rz, President.

CANANDAIGUA, ONTARIO Co., N. Y.,

April 10, 1850.

To the Editor of the National Era: Sig: We had a Convention here last week The resolutions were directed to be sent to the

At a large Convention of the people of Ontario county, without distinction of party, held at the Court-House in Cauandaigus, on the 2d and 3d days of April, the following resolutions, with others, were passed nearly unanimously:

Resolved, That, while we love the Constitu-

1832, upon the subject of slavery? YES. Never before, in any period of our history, were the press and the stump so free to slave discussion as now. Look, sir, at the National Era; would it have been tolerated in 1832? No, sir. The States, is a disgrace not only to Massachusetts, less than those on which the former contractors lost money—at prices at which every practical printer knew the work could not be done without

CARROLL COUNTY MEETING.

At a meeting of the citizens of Perry township, Carroll county, Ohio, friendly to the Wilmot Proviso, held in Perrysville on Monday, the 18th of February, 1850, S. R. Palmer was appointed President, W. B. Creal, Vice President, and Alex. Johnston, Secretary. The meeting was then addressed by Thomas H. Cummings of Leesville, after which the following resolutions

were offered and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, in the House of Representatives of
the United States, a resolution offered by Mr. Root of Ohio, affirming the principles of the Or-dinance of 1787, and affixing it to the Territories of the United States, has been laid upon the table by a majority of 26 votes; and whereas we believe the great mass of the people of the Northern States to be in favor of the principles of said

Therefore, be it resolved-1. That we hold in detestation the political baracter of these Northern men who have basely betrayed their constituents by voting against said

2. That the time has come when this question should be made a test with all candidates for

office who is not fully committed on this subject.

4. That we highly approve of the course of Hon. J. Cable, our present Representative in Congress, in voting in favor of Mr. Root's resolution, and at the same time disapprove of his votes in favor of slaveholding candidates for office in the House of Representatives.

5. That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the President and Secretary, and be published in the Carrollton newspapers and in the National Era at Washington, D. C. S. R. PALMER, President.

ALEX. JOHNSTON, Secretary.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY MEETING.

In pursuance of the rozozenendation of the last emocratic County Convention, a meeting of the semponic Republicans of Crawford country, Monday evening, the 11th inst, and after being called to order by Maj S. S. Adrain, W. Bartle, of Me dville was called to the Chair, Maj. Jabez Holcomb of Conneaut, Dr. W. F. Owen of Spring, Nicholas Snyder of Wood-cock, Wm. Kerr Esq. of Vernon, and Aaron Mumford of Fairfield, were chosen Vice Presi-

Wm. Barron of Meadville, and S. W. Knox of Conneautville, were appointed Secretaries.

ection district of the county be appointed to report resolutions and make such suggestions relative to a change in the delegate system, as hey may deem advisable, for the consideration of The districts were then called over, and the citizens thereof who were present appointed the

following: [Here follow the names of the Districts, &c. 31 in all. During the absence of the committee the meeting was ably addressed by George Williamson, Esq, and a number of other gentlemen, all of whom urged the propriety of union and harmony

in the party.

The committee returned after an absence of some time, when Mr. Lowry offered the following as the result of their deliberations, which were separately considered, and adopted:

Resolved, That political equality, opposition to monopolies and special privileges, are recognised

as cardinal principles of Democracy, and the ap-plication of these principles to every section of the Union will secure to man his natural rights, Government to rid itself at once and forever from

all connection with a traffic so repugnant to Christianity, by abolishing slavery in all terri-tory within their exclusive control; and the high-est considerations of duty and patriotism require of Congress to prohibit the extension of slavery of Congress to prohibit the extension of slavery over Territory that is free.

Resolved, That we are in favor of a Homestead Exemption law, and the law passed at the last session of the Legisluture exempting three hundred dollars worth of property from sale on execution should not be repealed until it gives place to one still more liberal in its character.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the amendment of the Constitution, as passed at the last session of the Legislature, which, if adopted by the present, will enable the people to elect their own Judges. The election of all officers, both State and National, by the qualified electors, is strictly Democratic, and we will contribute our mite to procure the necessary amendment to the State and National Constitutions, by the election of men to office who will advocate and vote for

this principle.

Resolved, That the public lands belong people, and that they should be bestowed in limited quantities on actual settlers who are home-

Resalved. That it is the true policy of this Government to make such judicious appropria-tions for the improvement of rivers and harbors, as our foreign and domestic commerce demands; provided, always, that they are not local in their benefits, and not legitimate subjects of State and

individual enterprise.

Resolved, That the franking privilege is monopoly odious to republicans, and its abolishment is loudly demanded; and that cheap postage is a reform which the spirit of the age requires.

[Theu follow resolutions respecting State

CONGRESS. THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS - FIRST SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1850. The Senate had under consideration a resolu-lution submitted by Mr. Webster, yesterday, in-structing the Committee on Finance to inquire what measures may be expedient to facilitate and increase the coinsge of the United States. Mr. Webster explained that there was a great accu-mulation of bullion in the mint, and that it had two tendencies—one, to invite the sending of bul-lion out of the country, to be coined by England, the other, to produce considerable inconvenience in mercantile operations. After considerable discussion, colored somewhat by party feelings, the resolution was adopted.

An effort was made to attend to some other business, but failed, and the Senate went into

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1858. The Vice President laid before the Senate an Executive document, in reply to a Senate resolu-tion, concerning the treatment of American sail-

ors in Japan, our commerce with oriental nations, c. The Secretary of State recommends that the consulate at Singapore be put on a better footing, and that the grade of our mission to China be raised to that of Euroy Extraordinary and Minister Pleningtonians. Minister Plenipotentiary.

Numerous Anti-Slavery petitions were presented by Mr. Chase, and ordered to lie upon the

condenning the acts of certain other citizens of the same county, in obtaining signatures to Abolition petitions, and sending them to Congressand declaring that said petitions misrepresent the public sentiment in that region.

Mr. Clay said—I am happy, sir, at thus having an opportunity of vindicating that county—although it is true I am not very well acquainted with the people there, though I have always heard a good account of them—from the reproach indicated by these petitions. I ask that this presentment and the proceedings of the meeting to which I have referred may be received and laid upon the table.

loss. Having thus underbid all competitors, and driven them off the ground, they had Congress pretty much in their own power. The result is, the work has been delayed beyond all precedent a dead loss of one thousand dollars a week is said to be incurred upon it; and Congress is reduced to the necessity of adopting some new mode of having the printing done; and the effort now is. to release the contractors, pay them a large advance on the rates they agreed to do the work for, and then appoint the Intelligencer and Union printers to do the work, at such rates as a union of the

WHOLE NO. 174.

Hummy

friends of both in Congress may determine.] Mr. Walker of Wisconsin said-If I understand the proposition of the Senator from Arkansas, it does not seem to me to be a very modest one. It is to this effect, I believe-that the contractors be released from their contract, upon their relinquishment of all claims which they might have for indemnity for their non-performance of this contract. I know not, nor do I care to know very minutely, what reasons are alleged for their failure to perform this contract. If it he that the printers were mistaken when they entered into this contract, there is something very singular in the matter, for it occurs to me that men making a bid for this work, men acquainted with the busihess, in contracting with Congress ought to have known at what rate they could do the work. It seems to me that they must have known this when they took the contract. Now, they must have made this bid either with the view of executing this work at what they supposed to be fair rates, and deriving therefrom a fair profit, or they must have made it with a view to keep it for the time being out of the hands of others, and with the ultimat design of throwing up the contract so as to obtain a higher price. I do not know that this has been the design; I do not charge it as such; but I will say this much, that if that has been the design, it

say this much, that if that has been the design, it is treating Congress very improperly. The way that I look at the matter, I think the proposition needs amendment, and I would submit the following as an amendment to the joint resolution reported by the Committee:

"That proper legal steps be immediately taken to recover the proper penalties for the non-performance of any contract or contracts for doing the public printing of the present Congress."

The subject cave rise to a long discussion

The subject gave rise to a long discussion bir. Clemens of Alabama, speaking of the bob stitute of Mr. Borland, said-Do we not know that we have not been supplied with a single public document at the time we wanted it? At the commencement of the session we called for information with regard to California, and sent it to the printers. We are nearly done legislating for California, and it is not here yet. Has there been no misconduct here? By whom was the contract taken? Not by inexperienced men, who did not know what they were do

enced men, who did not know what they were doing. There is no pretence that they were taken in. There is no pretence of misfortune. They took it, knowing that they could not execute it upon the terms and within the time. They took it, as I have no doubt, relying upon the generosity of Congress. The Senator from Mississippi says it would be ungenerous to enforce a contract of this sort. Sir, we have other duties than to these contractors. We owe a duty to our constituents. contractors. We owe a duty to our constituents, to watch over the public treasury, and to see that the money goes from it for honest purposes. By the amendment, they will get not less than \$50,000 in addition to the amount agreed for. And for what? It does not speak of releasing us from their contract; but it goes and pays them this sum; and for what? For not having their work done in time. For "all work not yet delivered and paid for," they are to receive the same compensation as shall be awarded to the contractors who shall execute it for the remainder of the session. Why sir, they have been said for none of

sion. Why, sir, they have been paid for none of it yet. They would make not less than \$50,000 what are we called upon to give it to them for?
Because they have kept us out of information necessary for correct and proper legislation. I am in favor of the amendment of the Senator from Wisconsin, [Mr. Walker.] We do not want evidence or proof of misconduct. We have got it all around us. The Senate is full of it; and it is

increasing upon us every day.

Mr. Butler of South Carolina said—
In regard to enforcing these penalties, which the Senator from Wisconsin seems disposed to do in his resolution, I think that a lawsuit would be mere litigation without any profit, except to have litigation. It might be serviceable, as I have no doubt be intends it, to be held in terrorem as an But, so far as the actual result is concerned, I think we would get no profit from it. I think, therefore, the shortest way to be the best, though I am reluctant to relieve contractors in this way is any case except where it is necessarily imposed on us. The real question is, whether the work shall be given out by contract, where all may compete, or whether it shall be given to Gales & Seaton and the Union office. That is the secret of the whole matter and the common understanding. My friend from Arkansus has told us why this is necessary, and it is only from the fact that any other course will afford no immediate relief that I give my vote. I was prepared to abrogate the contract, and allow others to do the work upon such rates as the chairman of the Printing Committee and the persons inclined to contract for mittee and the persons inclined to contract for for the work should agree, and was about to offer an amendment carrying out that idea. I will not do it, however, and hope the vote may at once be

do it, however, and hope the vote may at once be taken.

Mr. Mangum of North Carolina said—
I should be willing to be very liberal in the compensation that I would give for the work, which is now so much behindhand, and I would arrange this contract in almost any way that does not tend to bankrupt the treasury. I see, however, that in one of these amendments it is proposed that all the printing that has been delivered out, and that has not been returned and paid for, is to be paid for at the rate of the resolutions of is19. If this amendment should prevail, I estimate that the abrogation of this ruinous contract, which I understand causes a weekly loss to the contractor of \$1,000, would increase the cost of the printing already ordered to not less than thirty or fifty thousand dollars. That would be a very beneficial way of getting rid of a bad contract. However, sir, for a mere temporary arrangement, I am willing to agree to almost any plan which shall be suggested by the experience of the committee.

plan which shall be suggested by the experience of the committee.

He proceeded to say that a permanent system may be established, and he contemplated the establishment of a Government printing press to do the work of Congress and the Departments. There is but one single objection to the plan, and that is, that it would be almost impossible to maintain any political presses here. There is very little food for the press here; it finds better support in the large cities—in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston; and if you sbatracted from the political presses in the District the patronage derived from the Executive Departments and from Congress, it will be very difficult for them to get along at all. Well, sir, I have no doubt the committee will take that into consideration, and estimate the value of the various presses here. I shall not express any opinion upon that here. I shall not express any opinion upon that point, as I do not desire to raise feelings which are not germane to this subject, and which are not required in the consideration of this question. The Senate will, however, have to resort to The Senate will, however, have to resort to some temporary plan. I would agree to almost anything that might be proposed. And in relation to those gentlemen who have made this very ruinous contract, I am willing to deal with them in the most liberal spirit; for, though they may be liable to some censure, and may, in their anxiety to get possession of this work, have bid at a lower rate than they could possibly do the work at, relying on the never-failing generosity of the Senate when using other people's money, [a laugh.] yet I would set aside all that, and deal with them in a most liberal spirit; for I do think that it is extremest penalty for any failure in the discharge of the contract, or to desire to get any man's la-bor for less than an ample equivalent. The subject was passed over informally, and the Senate adjourned till Monday.

Mr. Evans of Maryland was excused, at his own request, from serving on the committee organized under the resolution of Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Outlaw was appointed in his place.

Various reports were made by committees. Mr. Moree of Louisiana, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the petition of David Weir of Tennesse, praying for a grant of land from Congress, on the ground that his wife had had three children at one birth. The committee was discharged from its consideration, and it was referred to the Committee on Manufactures!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WEDENESDAY, APRIL 24, 1850. Evans of Maryland was excused, at his